

CLAIMS

- add at 1.
1. Apparatus for cutting tubes (12) with at least one cutting tool (19), which can be moved during a cutting process to the cutting position on a counter-holder (13) which can receive the tube (12), with an ejector, for cut-off portions of tube, movable relative to the counter-holder (13), **wherein** the cutting tool (19) and the ejector (21) are provided on a slide (17) which is movable along the counter-holder (13), and the cut-off length of tubular sleeves is freely settable with a programmable control.
 2. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the cutting tool (19) and the ejector (21) are arranged on a flange (18) which can be removably fastened, preferably by means of quick clamping means, to a movable slide (17).
 3. Apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the ejector (21) has a driver element (36), preferably a bolt, which can travel in direction to the counter-holder (13), and which engages a seating of an ejector sleeve (41) which is arranged to be displaceable along a counter-holder (13).
 4. Apparatus according to one of the preceding claims, wherein a cutting knife (33) of the cutting tool (19) is arranged, fixedly or rotatably, on a mounting (13) of the slide (17), the rotatable arrangement having roller bearings (32) and preferably being freely rotatable.
 5. Apparatus according to one of claims 1-3, wherein a cutting knife (33) of the

cutting tool (19) is arranged rotatably and is driven, the rotation speed of the cutting knife (33) being selectably preselectable.

6. Apparatus according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the cutting tool (19) is resiliently, compliantly mounted on the flange (18) against the feed movement of the cutting knife (33) and preferably has an adjustable abutment force.
7. Apparatus according to one of the preceding claims, wherein a recognition switch (22) is provided on the flange (18), and senses the beginning of a tube (12) during the travel of the slide (17) into a first cutting position.
8. Apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the recognition switch is arranged on a slide (17) and at an acute angle to an end face of the tube (12) mounted on the counter-holder (13), the recognition switch (22) preferably being constituted as a proximity switch.
9. Apparatus according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the tube (12) is freely rotatably mounted on the counter-holder (13), and is driven in rotation by a left and right guide roller (46).
10. Apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the guide rollers (46), in the case of a tube internal diameter which is at least greater than the diameter of the counter-holder, engage on the tube (12) in a manner such that the tube (12) is supported on the counter-holder (13).

11. Apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the guide rollers (46), in the case of a tube internal diameter which substantially corresponds to the diameter of the counter-holder (13), rests on the tube (12) in a position acting against the cutting force.
12. Apparatus according to claims 9-11, wherein at least one of the two guide rollers (46) is driven.
13. Apparatus according to one of claims 9 or 12, wherein the guide rollers (46) are provided on supporting arms (48) which are arranged pivotably around a respective shaft (49) and which are synchronously movable by means of a power element (51) by means of a gearwheel pair (52) coupled to the supporting arms (48).
14. Apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the power element (51) is driven with compressed air and an operating pressure for the positioning movement of the power element (51) is settable.
15. Apparatus according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the slide (17) is arranged displaceably parallel to the counter-holder in a guide, and can be moved by an actuating drive (26, 27) in dependence on the preferably programmable cut length of the tube (12).
16. Apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the actuating drive (26, 27) is constituted as a stepping motor and drives a threaded spindle (26) with the interposition of a coupling (28).